

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to make a trip to transport goods from a first location to a second location, comprising the steps of:
 - a) evaluating each carrier's past performance on previously-made trips from the first location to the second location;
 - b) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location; and
 - c) selecting a carrier.
2. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - d) evaluating each carrier's capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period; and
 - e) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location and on their capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period.
3. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 1; further comprising the step of:
 - d) evaluating the cost for each carrier to make the trip;
 - e) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location and on their cost to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period.

4. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

- e) evaluating the cost for each carrier to make the trip;
- f) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location, on their capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period, and on the cost for each carrier to make the trip.

5. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- d) after a carrier is selected to transport goods from a first location to a second location, adjusting the carrier's capacity data to reflect that load taken.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

- e) storing carrier capacity data based on contractual requirements and limits in a database in association with the carrier;
- f) updating said capacity data upon carrier's acceptance of a trip.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the contractual requirements and limits are for a specified time period, and further comprising the step of:

- g) resetting the stored carrier capacity data upon completion of a specified time period.

8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- d) determining the mode of each load for a specified trip between the first location and the second location; and

e) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location and on mode to make a trip between said first and second locations during a given time period.

5 9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said past performance is evaluated based on on-time percentage.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said past performance is evaluated based on claims ratio.

10 11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said past performance is evaluated based on on-time percentage and claims ratios.

12. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to make a trip to transport goods from a first location to a second location during a given time period, comprising the steps of:

a) evaluating each carrier's capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period;

b) comparing the carriers based on their capacity to make a trip from the first location to the second location during the given time period; and

c) selecting a carrier.

13. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 12, further comprising the step of:

d) evaluating each carrier's past performance on trips between said first and second locations; and

e) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location and on their capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period.

14. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 12; further comprising the step of:

d) evaluating the cost for each carrier to make the trip;

e) comparing the carriers based on their capacity for trips from the first location to the second location during a given time period and on their cost to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period.

15. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport goods from a first location to a second location, according to claim 13, further comprising the step of:

e) evaluating the cost for each carrier to make the trip;

f) comparing the carriers based on their past performances on trips from the first location to the second location, on their capacity to make trips between said first and second locations during a given time period, and on the cost for each carrier to make the trip.

16. A method according to claim 12 further comprising the step of:

d) after a carrier is selected to transport goods from a first location to a second location, adjusting the carrier's capacity data to reflect that load taken.

17. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

- e) storing carrier capacity data based on contractual requirements and limits in a database in association with the carrier;
- f) updating said capacity data upon carrier's acceptance of a trip.

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18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the contractual requirements and limits are for a specified time period, and further comprising the step of:

- g) resetting the stored carrier capacity data upon completion of a specified time period.

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19. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

- d) determining the mode of each load for a specified trip between the first location and the second location; and
- e) comparing the carriers based on their capacity on trips from the first location to the second location during a given time period and on their mode to make a trip between said first and second locations during a given time period.

20. A method of selecting a carrier from a group of carriers to transport a shipment of goods from a first location to a second location, comprising the steps of:

- a) for each carrier, identifying the maximum number of shipments allowed to that carrier over a given period of time;
- b) comparing the number of shipments carried by each carrier during the given period to the maximum number allowed to that carrier;
- c) for each carrier that has not exceeded the allowed shipment number during said period:

- (i) evaluating each carrier's past performance on trips from the first location to the second location;
- ii) evaluating each carrier's capacity;
- iii) evaluating the cost for each carrier to make the trip;
- 5 iv) comparing the carriers;
- v) selecting a carrier; and
- vi) adjusting the capacity data of the selected carrier for the given period.